

**Fact Sheet  
June 2004**

# **Jordan High School**

## **LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**



### ***Emergency Hazardous Waste Cleanup Planned for School Baseball Field***

**DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments with in the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.**

***State of California***



***California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency***



*Department of Toxic Substances Control staff collected more than 300 samples of soil for analysis from a contaminated section of the Jordan High School baseball field.*

### **Lead and Other Chemicals Found on Baseball Field**

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is sending you this fact sheet to provide the community with the results of a soil investigation conducted on the Jordan High School baseball field, and the plans for an emergency cleanup of the contaminated soil found on a portion of the baseball field. The school is located at 2265 E. 103rd Street, Los Angeles, 90002.

The California Environmental Protection Agency, DTSC protects public health and the environment. We conducted this investigation as a follow-up to an ongoing investigation of a neighboring business. Our agency collected more than 300 soil samples on the school's baseball field in the area near the fence during the investigation.

Contamination was found in the surface and shallow soil on the field.

### **Overview**

The Jordan High School baseball field is on 2.1-acres of land. The baseball field is adjacent to the Jordan High School classrooms and other sports facilities at the school. The S & W Atlas Iron and Metal Company, (Atlas Metals) is east of the baseball field. Atlas Metals is a scrap metal business. The business has been at this location since the 1940's. Additionally, Southwest Steel Rolling Mills was located to the north of the site from the mid-1940s to 1960.

Following an accident at Atlas Metals, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) asked our agency to investigate possible health and safety risks to Jordan High School. The accident involved an explosion that occurred when Atlas Metals was cutting

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up old military ammunition. Atlas Metals no longer accepts scrap metal materials from the military. Hazardous wastes were found in scrap metal waste piles on the Atlas property during a subsequent DTSC inspection. The Atlas property is separated from the baseball field by a cinder block wall and fence. The Atlas Metals matter was referred to the California Attorney General's Office.

DTSC was concerned that contamination might also be present on the Jordan High School baseball field. In March 2004, soil samples were collected on the Jordan High School baseball field at depths ranging from the surface to 7 feet below ground. LAUSD installed a temporary chain-link fence around the area to prevent access during the investigation and to protect the health and safety of students and staff. Levels of lead and arsenic were found in soil which exceeded acceptable residential health risk levels. Other chemicals, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and copper, were found in very limited areas. Additional soil samples were collected in April 2004, to determine the extent of the contamination and to evaluate the need for a soil removal plan.

## **Results Indicate a Potential Risk to Human Health**

The soil investigation results indicate that contamination was found in the surface and shallow soil beneath grass covered areas of the baseball field at levels that pose a potential risk to human health. The investigation found areas with high levels of lead. In addition, elevated levels of arsenic were found in most of the lead contaminated areas on the baseball field.

Although much of the baseball field area is covered with grass, which has worked as protective barrier between the chemicals and the public, the grassy area is readily

accessible to children and adults. Two areas of partially exposed soil are currently enclosed by a fence. A DTSC health risk analysis has indicated a potential risk to students, staff, and community members who use the portion of the baseball field that is contaminated with lead.

Lead was found along the eastern and northern fence lines of the baseball field at Jordan High School. The highest level of lead detected is 5,200 parts per million. DTSC considers 255 parts per million or above to be of concern for a school site. Children are particularly susceptible to lead poisoning, and high exposure can affect the nervous system, blood system and kidneys. Arsenic was also found in many of the lead contaminated areas. Arsenic may cause cancer or other health effects when people come into contact with high concentrations over many years.

As a result of these findings, DTSC will conduct an emergency cleanup action to remove the contaminated soil from the school athletic field during the school summer break, between the June 19 and July 6, 2004.

## **How the School Will Be Cleaned Up**

Our agency will oversee the emergency cleanup action, consisting of digging out and taking the contaminated soil to an offsite disposal facility, restoring the site, and keeping the public informed.

Approximately 2,000 tons of contaminated soil will be removed to a depth ranging from surface to 3.5 feet and taken away in trucks to a state approved disposal facility. Once the contaminated soil is removed, sampling will be conducted to confirm that no contamination is left onsite. Clean soil will be used to fill the holes and cover the areas.

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No traffic delays are expected while the trucks are driving to and from the site. The trucks will exit on Alameda Street and travel south to the 105 freeway for the disposal facility. Safety precautions will be used to minimize the impact of dust during the cleanup action.

## Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can obtain additional information about the cleanup by calling the California State Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378) to reach DTSC Public Participation Specialist, Treva Miller, at (818) 551-2846.

## For More Information

If you have any questions about the cleanup activities, please call the following persons at our agency:

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*For more information about the DTSC, please visit our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).*

### **LAUSD Contact**

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**Important Information on Jordan High School**  
**Información importante sobre la Escuela Secundaria Jordan**

